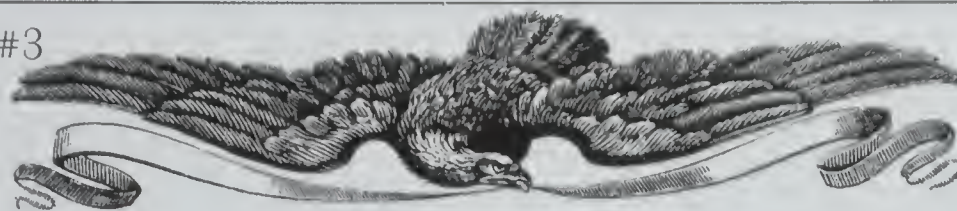

JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume 11, #3

Fall



2000



1892 Dime

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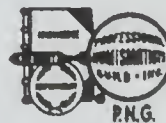
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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall has arrived (but not the worst of the weather this may bring) and many of us rekindle our numismatic interests. I'll have a few items of interest in this regard, later in my message.

Since the last **JOURNAL**, the ANA annual convention has been held in Philadelphia. The overall message from this meeting was (for me at least) attendance! Each day (and within the day) the numbers of attendees kept rising and ultimately approached 20,000! This number ensures success and indicates both the health of numismatics and the draw of the convention city.

The ANA Barber Society meeting was highly significant as you will note from the warm remarks from Lynn Feigenbaum. Additionally, a nice discussion ensued concerning electronic messaging and communication for those BCCS members with access to E-mail. I'm not entirely sure how this will take shape but I propose the following plan:

1. if you are interested in communicating by this means, send me your E-mail address
2. if you are interested in organizing this electronic discussion, mention this.

My E-mail address (philip.carrigan@abbott.com) and that for Paul Reuter (pauloreuter@telepak.net), are shown in each issue of the **JOURNAL**. I look forward to this developing as other numismatic groups have implemented similar lists.

Let me detail two interesting current auctions with lasting interest. The New York firm *Stack's* is conducting its 65th anniversary sale and has assembled a truly awesome offering of material. Why awesome? I mention only the Eliasberg 1894-S 10¢ and the Dexter 1804 dollar (you will find much more). Ask for or purchase a copy of this catalog from the company (tel 212/ 582-2580). Next, Bowers & Merena will sell at auction an 1892-O **microO** Barber half in mintstate at the October Baltimore Show. This is an unusual offering of a decidedly rare Barber. Finally, in November, Heritage will sell in their Santa Clara auction a 1906-D Barber dime graded as Specimen MS-64 by NGC. This coin was known by Walter Breen and is in the company of 1906-D Specimen gold Eagles and Double Eagles. All these coins are believed to be presentation pieces struck commemorating the opening of the Denver Mint. One can read a press release and view the coin at this web site: <http://www.heritagecoin.com/info/PressReleases/9282000Dime.html>

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Fall Journal. The fall colors are outstanding here in New England, but it won't be long before winter weather will force coin collectors to stay indoors and examine their collections.

My new job is taking its toll of my free time, so after nearly four years as your editor, I will be stepping aside and allowing someone else to handle the editor's duties. The Winter Journal will be my last act as your editor, although I plan to stay on as contributing editor. I have enjoyed putting together each Journal, and I am looking forward to seeing the new editor's design ideas. My writing for other publications has also slowed down, and I hope I can focus on doing more in this area as well.

The cover photo is from your editor's collection displaying an interesting die break. The break between the forehead and the O in the word OF is quite common among early Barber dimes. It is very often seen on 1892, 1897, 1898 dimes from all the mints. I believe it is equally as common on the 1893, 94, 95, 96, dimes, but because of their lower mintages these coins are not encountered as often. Lower grading coins also don't always show this break as this area of the coin wears away quickly. I think the re-engraving of the dime that took place during 1900, put an end to the flaw in the design that caused this break to occur. As I have never run across this break after 1899.

The upper die break in the leaves of Liberty's head dress appears to be quite rare. I have only seen it twice and both were 1892 dimes. Please keep sending your interesting photos of die breaks to the editor, so we can all see these errors!

For those of you who wish to stay in touch with me, my new E-mail address is: jetiknight@hotmail.com

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your articles submissions automatically enter you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50, second prize will be \$25, and third place will be a free BCCS one year membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date, and get your article in the mail to Russell at the address on page one.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS DEC. 31

Thanks to all of you for the Presidential Award

By Lynn Feigenbaum

My husband, Dave Feigenbaum — better known to many of you as David Lawrence — couldn't be in Philadelphia for the 2000 ANA gathering on Aug. 12. That was the day that he was awarded the ANA Presidential Award at the Barber Society annual meeting. But he had the second-best alternative: He got to watch the proceedings on a videotape filmed by Phil Carrigan and his fiancée, Mary Clare Jakes (soon to be Mary Clare Carrigan!). And the award now has a place of honor on a shelf where Dave can easily see it from his wheelchair.

As most of you know, Dave has ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). He was diagnosed four years ago, in October 1996. For the first two or three years, he was still able to indulge his first love (well, maybe second, after watching the Miami Dolphins) - going to coin shows. But now it is too difficult.

Your award, and the tributes from everyone that followed on the videotape, were very special to Dave. Even the grand finale: Harry Miller's awful joke! (It wasn't really that awful, Harry.) He was touched that ANA president Bob Campbell, along with VP John Wilson, personally presented the award. And he got a chuckle out of hearing Bob "griping" that when he couldn't find any Barbers for his customers, it was because Dave had them all!

And, of course, we were proud to see our son John, who has taken over David Lawrence Rare Coins (DLRC), accept the award on his dad's behalf. Both of our children have been terrific through these difficult times. Sometimes it's even hard for them to talk about what their dad is going through. But they've been there for us all the way. And Dave is so proud of John's success with DLRC.

There's someone else who has been with us all through this battle. That is Phil Carrigan, BCCS president. Once, a very long time ago, he was "just" Dave's customer. Now we count him as a close friend, a very special person who has been there to cheer Dave on and to commiserate. And to introduce us to Mary Clare for our "approval." No problem there. She is a rare unc!

It was Phil who has campaigned to recognize Dave for his years of participation in the coin arena - as a dealer, author, researcher et al. Maybe my husband's coin ardor comes from being a collector since childhood. Or maybe he never recovered from selling his original collection to buy me an engagement ring. Whatever the reason, Dave has loved coins, especially Barbers. And he thanks you all for your very special recognition.

[note from Phil: Lynn wrote these kind and sincere thoughts which include some intimate details which I've left as written.]

“A Pair of Barber Quarters”

.....

By Jack White

During my recent vacation to the upstate New York area, I took the opportunity whenever and wherever they arose to search for interesting Barber material. These opportunities resulted in searches of antique shops, flea markets, coin shops, and yard or tag sales. Even used book shops were visited, in the slight chance of recovering a previously unknown (to me) “Barber Bit.” In this I met with moderate success.

One piece, though not a Barber one in the strictest sense, is an unusual one produced at the height of the Barber Era. It is an encased 1901 Indian cent in almost uncirculated grade. It is a good luck piece distributed at the Pan American Exposition at Buffalo, New York. This event has important historical significance in that the twenty-fifth United States President, William McKinley was shot and subsequently succumbed to the injuries he suffered from the bullet wound he received in September 1901. From research I have found that 1901 was the first year that these good luck pieces were produced with coins. The majority of pieces used a “Lucky Penny” - but other coins were sometimes used as well. Nice original toned Barber Dimes may be found in this type of souvenir. I know I’ll continue searching!

My travels took me to Burlington, Vermont, to the shores of Lake Champlain. Having met with no success at three antique shops and a used book store, I sought out an area coin shop. Hours before I arrived a small lot of over one hundred silver quarters were purchased by the shop owner. Among the dozen or so Barber Quarters was a seldom seen circulated Isabella Commemorative Quarter of 1893, designed by Charles E. Barber. The coin, grading approximately very fine is the lowest grade one of its type I’ve ever seen. With a tiny mintage of just 24,214. This Barber coin was produced in a quantity of one-third the amount of the famed 1901-S quarter, and slightly over half the total of the 1913-S. The coin was mounted in some type of holder as it exhibits slight rim damage on opposite sides. Unlike its half dollar counterpart, the Columbian half dollar of 1892-1893 (both were sold at the world’s Columbian Expo in Chicago in 1893) excess quarters were not placed in circulation in later years. To find the Isabella quarter in circulated grades, especially very fine, is most unusual. It is the lowest mintage quarter designed by Charles Barber. A very interesting Barber coin!

My final destination of my trip took me to a favorite coin shop of mine. Since my last visit a hard to find Barber quarter had been purchased - a problem free choice fine 1909-O. This last year of issue product of the New Orleans mint is

Continued on next page

"A Pair of Barber Quarters"

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difficult to find in any grade above good. I always buy mid-grade and above specimens whenever I locate them. The wholesale price on this date has risen quite nicely in recent years. Its lack of availability should keep it's price advancing for years to come. I was quite happy to add it to my collection.

Presidents Message

Continued from page 2

At the start of y2001, our Society will need a new journal editor. Russell Easterbrooks has held this position and performed particularly well. Russell has determined his time has ended and wishes to 'retire' while at a peak rather than below the high standard he has set personally. I would ask any member who has contributed articles to the BCCS or other numismatic publications, to consider doing this work and assuming the honor as society journal editor. Please contact me if you have any interest or question regarding this position.

Numismatic Regards,
Phil Carrigan

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Should I sell My Coins in an Online Auction?

.....

By Lindsay Ashburn

Probably.

There are a number of online auctions that list coins. The number is increasing, probably even as you read this. For the purposes of this article, I will focus on the largest of them all, Ebay. I chose Ebay because they have a large customer base, a large seller base, a low commission structure and plenty of coins to browse through (and I am familiar with their site).

If I want to sell some coins, what are my choices?

1. My local dealer should do nicely if I am satisfied with wholesale or less.
2. I can place my coins with an auctioneer or consignment seller if I want to pay a commission of 10-15% or more. Some sellers charge this fee to the buyer instead, but the bottom line is the same, the customer will lower his bid by that amount. For this fee, I reach a small audience that may or may not want coins. Results can be disappointing.
3. If I have time to spare, I can wait for weeks or months for the local coin show. Then I can shop around for the best price, which will still be wholesale.
4. I can place an ad in one of the coin related periodicals. I get to spend money up front for questionable results, advertising to a focused but small audience. I can get my price if I am lucky enough to make the sell.
5. I can sell my stuff at the local coin club, if there is one. The audience is focused but very small. Some trading may be required to complete a meaningful deal.
6. I can consign with a major numismatic auctioneer, for the 15% commission, to reach a national audience gathered at a target-rich convention. If my coins are particularly rare or desirable, I don't have to look any further. I will almost certainly get retail prices minus 15%. Unfortunately, most of us don't have the truly prime stuff for sale. Selling common coins, duplicates or leftovers often is not a real option with these major auction houses.
7. I can place my coins in an online auction, let's say Ebay. There is always lots of stuff for sale there, about 4 million items at any given time. With registered users numbering in the millions as well, the audience is certainly there. Anyone can sell there, so my stuff is always welcome. Coin

Continued on next page

Online Auctions

Continued from page 7

shoppers can go directly to the coin listings, or specific listings such as dimes or quarters or halves or errors or supplies or whatever category is of interest. A barber collector can do a search for 'barber dime' and pull up hundreds of barber dimes for sale in seconds.

How are the commissions? They range from 5% down to 2.5%, plus nominal listing fees starting at 25 cents. I can list my coins with a reserve price of I can sell absolute to the highest bidder. I can run my auctions from 3 to 10 days, starting and ending on any day of the week I choose.

A quality item with a clear picture and an honest description almost always will bring a fair price. Sounds like the place for me.



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Revisiting the 1892 Type 1 Quarter with Filled S's

By Bill Harris

I first wrote an article on this particular variety in the Summer, 1993 *BCCS Journal*. Previous passing references to the existence of this variety by two club members in earlier *Journals* had stirred my interest into searching for the coin. As luck would have it, within two months I was able to locate the VF example pictured below. The relatively easy time I had locating that example led me to speculate that the filled S's variety might in fact be a relatively common variety.

Shortly after writing that article, like all coin collectors who have collected for many years, other priorities in my life replaced the time available for collecting Barber coins, but I knew at some point in the future time would again become available to pursue this most enjoyable activity. Sure enough, in the Spring of 1998 my work and family schedule once again provided some spare time and the "Barber bug" hit me and once again I was actively collecting those special coins.



For whatever reason the 1892 Type I filled S's quarter, minted in Philadelphia, had always maintained my curiosity and the desire to find a higher grade specimen became one of my collecting priorities. I felt that there must have been some physical characteristic associated with the particular die of this coin that created the conditions which caused the top loops of the S's in "STATES" to be filled. I was convinced there must have been some observable physical

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Revisiting

Continued from page 9

deterioration of the reverse die which could only be learned by viewing a higher grade example. The questions unanswered in my first article continued to bother me. Why were the top loops of the S's filled and not the bottom loops? Why were the tops of the S's in "STATES" on the reverse filled and not the top of the S in "TRUST" on the obverse?

The facts seemed to indicate that the filled S's variety was possibly unique to the Type I, Philadelphia minted quarter and yet logically I couldn't explain why. At local shows I know I have examined at least a couple thousand Barbers in the three denominations and have yet to find any other dates with this characteristic. Review of past *BCCS Journals* turned up one reference to the top loop of the second S in "STATES" being filled on an 1898 dime. If it appeared on this dime, the second occurrence, why were there not more examples on other dates showing up?

My search for a high grade example of this Type I quarter continued without success through June 2000. Although no higher grade examples had been found, I was able to locate five additional examples in the good to very good range. At least the searching had in fact confirmed my earlier unsupportable statement that the variety was relatively common.

One June night scanning the internet site of my favorite Barber dealer, I noticed an 1892 quarter in inventory that immediately caught my attention. An NGC 63 coin with beautiful white centers and a narrow band of amber and blue toning at the rim. My type of coin with what I thought was wonderful eye appeal. Excitement took over and since I was at the point with my dime collection that the missing dates were only occasionally available, I went ahead and made the decision to buy.

When the coin arrived I flipped to the reverse and was startled to see it was a Type I variety. I guess in by earlier excitement I had missed that fact or maybe because of the toning or the quality of the photo it was not observable on the computer screen. Scrambling for the magnifying glass I was now curious if it could be the filled S's variety I had been searching for and sure enough it was. Wow, talk about luck.

Under magnification the top loops of the S's on an uncirculated coin are not filled in flat with the top surfaces of the letters. Instead the filled interior of the loops looks almost granular with the raised areas at most points equally as high as the height of the S's. The flat filled in look on circulated specimens comes about from the wear pattern on these coins. The observable deterioration in the

Continued on next page

Revisiting

Continued from page 9

reverse die that I had been hoping to find, did not exist. In fact the only easily visible die crack of significance on the reverse of the coin was the crack connecting the two uppermost stars directly beneath the second T and E in "STATES." So much for the die deterioration theory.

Not wanting to give up in my quest for an answer to why the occurrence of filled S's on the Type I quarter, the next step was to set a Type II quarter side by side with the first coin and see what else was unique to the Type I quarter. Immediately I observed that the lettering on the reverse of the Type I quarter was noticeably closer to the denticles than on the Type II quarter. At this point I thought I had possibly made an important new discovery but after pulling out David Lawrence's Barber Quarter book, I realized that whoever had made the sketches to illustrate the differences between the Type I and Type II reverse hubs must have already known this point because the drawings clearly showed the letters on the Type I reverse hub being closer to the denticles than the letters on the Type II hub. In any case, I am convinced that probably as a result of the Type I reverse letters being closer to the rim and the Type I coins being thicker than their Type II counterparts, that in combination these two differences provided the conditions necessary during the stamping process which led to the minting of the Type I variety with the top loop of both S's in "STATES" being filled. Interesting enough the distance between the letters of "IN GOD WE TRUST" and the denticles on the obverses of both the Type I and Type II hubs, seems to be the same approximate distance from the rim and approximately the same distance from the rim as that on the redesigned Type II reverse hub. This would answer an earlier question as to why the top loop of the S in "TRUST" on the obverse is not filled in. Moving the letters farther away from the denticles took away one of the conditions necessary for the filled S's.

One last interesting question remains, assuming the reverse Type I hubs were identical at the Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco mints, why then is the filled S's variety only showing up on the coins minted in Philadelphia? It certainly seems we have the possibility of a filled S's variety with an "S" or "O" mintmark. Has anyone seen one?

The photograph accompanying this article was made by Tom Mulvaney.

The Search For The Perfect Barber

By Michael Flores

If you have been collecting as long as I have you've probably noticed by now that collecting the Barber series is quite a challenge. This is especially true when you are trying to assemble a half set in VF to AU and as original as possible very, very difficult. Most specimens exist in AG-VG and this is only a guess but I'd say about 90% of the population of existing Barbers are in this range. And then there's the problem of cleaning, preservation or whatever you want to call it. The Barber series like any other series have had some type of alteration of its surface, which is not always a bad thing if it indeed it improves the *eye appeal* of the coin. This to me is the one most important thing in making the decision to purchase the coin or not. EYE APPEAL simple if the coin is attractive to you it will probably be attractive to someone else when the time comes to sell. Too many people snub their nose at cleaned coins take a closer look before passing judgment. But then there is nothing like finding that original surface coin with great eye appeal, now that is quite a find. Obtaining a piece of history as it existed before a collector found it (cleaned it) there are not that many out there in very large quantities that I know of. As of late nice collector grade Barbers have been very HOT on the Internet going for asking price or better. There is a bright future for the series that we hold in such high esteem and I am glad to be a part of it.



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